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Food for Century III

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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The Situation

The Food for Century III project is an imaginative building program designed to increase the Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine's contributions to the important task of food production through research and extension programs.

In the face of population increases and food price increases, the people of Illinois and this nation have grown concerned about how we can be certain there will be enough food — Food for Century III.

The increased costs of producing food and the resulting food prices are signals to Illinois people that something must be done.

No state has greater potential to contribute than Illinois. Illinois ranks fourth among all states in total cash receipts from all farm products. Gross farm income was \$6 billion in 1973, \$6.1 in 1974 and was probably about \$6 billion in 1975.

A major part of Illinois' economy depends on agriculture. In fact, in 1972 \$12.8 billion of Illinois' \$68 billion gross state product resulted from agri-

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culture and food production. That's 18.6 percent. Or another way to look at it, nearly one dollar in every five is closely related to agriculture.

Illinois is also the nation's leading export state with \$1.6 billion in agricultural commodities exported from Illinois in 1975. Our state led in soybean exports and was second in both corn and meat product exports.

Education And Research Are Major Keys

A report from the National Research Council indicates that U.S. agricultural productivity increased about 1.75 percent annually between 1930 and 1972. The report estimates that 80 percent of the increase in production stems from research and technology that originated in land-grant universities and was made available through extension programs.

The impact of research and education can be measured many ways. Since 1950, crop production has risen 45 percent. Production per hour from farm labor has doubled. The acreage harvested per consumer has been nearly cut in half.

But these advances stem from past research. The benefits future generations will receive must come from research currently underway and from the research of tomorrow.

Agricultural problems never stay solved. Agriculture must cope with a changing environment: weather that ranges from floods to droughts, outbreaks of pests and diseases, new economic trends, and new social and political expectations from society. For example, the southern corn leaf blight outbreak caused corn yields to drop 25 percent in Illinois from a state average of 102 bushels per acre in 1969 to 74 bushels in 1970. Fortunately, the solution to that problem came quickly from research done during the preceding decade.

Today there are signs that we're coming to the end of benefits we can expect from past research investments. For example, yield increases

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have begun to plateau. At the same time the best minds in agriculture — throughout Illinois and the nation — say advances are still possible if scientists make the right breakthroughs. One report says corn yields and beef production can increase 60 percent by 1985 and soybean yields can increase 40 percent.

But it won't happen unless wise investments are made in agricultural research.



The Challenge And The Proposal

The challenge to assure an abundant supply of nutritious food underlies the Food for Century III proposal. The \$115 million building proposal from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus deals with a big idea that befits a great land-grant university. The focal points are the Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.

The Food for Century III proposal — designed to be implemented during the next eight years — includes 21 new building projects, major remodeling of existing buildings and tearing down obsolete facilities. It includes the purchase of land for research and demonstration fields and the purchase of major pieces of fixed equipment. And it includes establishing research centers in Northern and Western Illinois plus land purchases and improvements in the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in Southern Illinois.

Funds for the proposed \$115 million package could come from the issuance of bonds that could be amortized over a 25-year period with money from the Agricultural Premium Fund. Receipts from that fund come from pari-mutuel betting rather than taxes.

Facility Needs Are The Barrier

The major building effort for the College of Agriculture occurred at the turn of the century. From 1900 to 1925, 10 major buildings were completed.

During the next 25 years, only two buildings were completed: The Agronomy Seed House on the south farm and the Administration Building at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center.

Since 1950 three major buildings have been added to the campus: Animal Science Laboratory in 1952, Bevier Hall for home economics in 1956, and Phase I of Turner Hall for agronomy in 1963. In addition, three smaller laboratories have been built for food science, agricultural engineering and child development. Several greenhouses have been added also.

So during the past 50 years, only three major buildings have been added to the College of Agriculture campus. During the 50-year period changes in agriculture have been tremendous. So have the research facility needs changed.

During that period laboratories have been remodeled and converted a number of times. And the result is a variety of make-shift facilities that are obsolete and totally inadequate to meet the sophisticated research needs of modern research programs.

The facility needs of the College of Veterinary Medicine are different.

In 1952 the Basic Sciences Building and the Diagnostic Laboratory were completed, and in 1955 the Large Animal Clinic opened. The Small Animal Clinic remained in what was once the beef barn for the College of Agriculture.

In 1971 Phase I of a three-phase program was completed with the building of a new small animal clinic. Phase II — the large animal clinic — was completed in 1976. Phase III — a new and expanded basic sciences building and diagnostic laboratory — remain to be completed. A high-security isolation laboratory, a medium-security isolation laboratory and additional buildings on the veterinary research farm are needed to expand research capabilities.

Facilities provided by Phases I and II are excellent, but the University of Illinois needs to complete the package to efficiently use what has already been developed. Since its beginning, the College of Veterinary Medicine has attempted to increase class size to help meet our nation's critical shortage of veterinarians. The new Basic Sciences Building will enable the College to expand class size to 104, while placing more emphasis on large animal research. The new research facilities and cooperative research efforts with University of Illinois animal scientists should mark a new era in solving the complex animal health problems facing the modern livestock producer.

The Benefits

The Food for Century III project directly benefits the State of Illinois and all of her people. Because agriculture and food processing are so important to the economy of Illinois, advances made through agricultural research translate quickly into economic advances for Illinois.

But the ultimate benefactors of research in agriculture and veterinary medicine are the people of Illinois — the consumers. As research breakthroughs produce new efficiencies on Illinois farms, a part of those efficiencies is passed through the food processing chain to result in more moderate food prices at the supermarket.

Another important benefit to consumers is the assurance that the food they get is safe and of



high-nutritional quality. The growing concern about consuming unnatural chemicals dictates that some agencies must monitor the components of diets. The capability to monitor must be based on technology, and technology stems from agricultural research findings.

The Food for Century III project includes components that will reach far beyond the Urbana campus of the University of Illinois. The Downers Grove Center will serve the vast consumer audience in the Chicago area with information on consumer education, food preservation, gardening and landscape design. Research programs will focus on the needs of horticultural crop producers and homeowners.

The Western Illinois Center will provide facilities to study the two major soil types unique to the area. And its location will allow researchers to study alternative ways to reclaim stripped land that was originally some of the most valuable agricultural land in Illinois.

In far Southern Illinois improvements in the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center will help researchers learn to increase the livestock production potential of land that is not suited for intensive row crop production.

A Challenge And Commitment

The Food for Century III proposal is a challenge in our time for the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois . . . a challenge in research and education on food, its production and its utilization. The program is big, but it fits the University's tradition of service to people through education. If it is implemented, it will place the University in a leadership role in an area important to Illinois — agriculture and food.

And more — it will help assure that people throughout the world have enough to eat.

Food for Century III. It's a way to be certain that there is plenty of food for your family and all families . . . safe, high-quality food at a cost we can all afford.

To all of us, it's Food for Century III.

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An Illinois Perspective

On September 15 the University of Illinois Board of Trustees gave approval to the \$115 million Food For Century III proposal by an eight-to-one vote. To implement the eight-year plan, the Board included a \$32 million request in the University of Illinois 1977-78 capital operating budget.

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